



Fall-Winter 2022

16th District Milwaukee County Supervisor

TONY STASKUNAS

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Audit Committee, Vice Chair • Personnel Committee • Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic Planning Committee

Dear Neighbors,

It has been an exciting seven months serving District 16. As a result of redistricting, I am fortunate to represent a few new neighborhoods, in addition to representing many familiar faces. It is an honor and a privilege to serve a small portion of the city of Milwaukee, and the city of West Allis.

My office has quickly gotten to work pushing for policies that best serve both Milwaukee County as a whole and the 16th District in particular. I am proud to have put forth legislation to restore paratransit funding in the 2023 budget which was eventually adopted. Taking care of our most vulnerable residents is something I feel particularly passionate about, especially given Milwaukee County's commitment to achieving equity.

In this newsletter, you will find information about the 2023 Milwaukee County budget, an update on the plan to revitalize the Milwaukee Public Museum and much more. As always, please contact me with your thoughts and concerns regarding Milwaukee County government.

Call my office at **(414) 278-4247**, or email me at **Anthony.Staskunas@milwaukeecountywi.gov**.

Thank you,

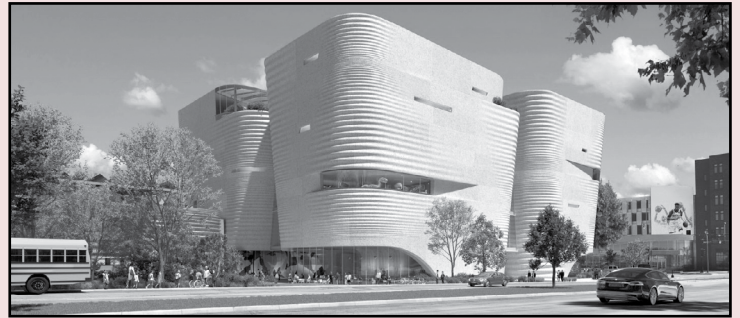
Tony Staskunas - County Supervisor, District 16



For legislative files, agendas, minutes and schedules for all Milwaukee County committee and board meetings, please visit the County Legislative Information Center at:

county.milwaukee.gov/CLIC

Milwaukee County Commits \$45 Million to Fund New Milwaukee Public Museum



This rendering depicts the new Milwaukee Public Museum building.

Earlier this year the County Board of Supervisors approved (14-4) a proposal to contribute \$45 million in bonding to finance a new building for the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM).

The museum has secured \$40 million in funding from the State of Wisconsin and is seeking \$5 million in federal grants. It plans to cover the remaining costs for the \$240 million project with a \$150 million private fundraising campaign.

Milwaukee County owns MPM's collections, including four million objects and specimens, for which the museum cares. The resolution adopted by the County Board allows Milwaukee County to save \$2.5 million in operating support each year.

The current building has \$50 million in deferred maintenance, which caused the Accreditation Commission at the American Alliance of Museums to delay MPM's accreditation, risking the museum's ability to seek some federal grants and host traveling exhibits.

The new museum, which MPM has indicated will be called the Wisconsin Museum of Nature and Culture, will be located at the northeast corner of Sixth and McKinley streets in downtown Milwaukee. In July, the museum released renderings of the new building designed by the firms Ennead Architects and Kahler Slater.

MPM is the most visited museum in the state with 550,000 visitors from every Wisconsin county, including 155,000 school-agers from 44 counties. It hosts 287 outreach programs experienced by 25,000 people across the state each year.

MPM plans to begin construction in 2023 and complete the project in spring 2026.

Milwaukee County Recommended Budget Avoids Major Service Cuts, But Fiscal Cliff Looms

Milwaukee County is in the midst of another budget season. On Thursday, September 29 County Executive David Crowley presented his \$1.3 billion 2023 Recommended Budget.

This budget is funded through non-property tax revenue of \$1 billion, bond/note proceeds of \$105 million, and total requested tax levy of \$347 million.

Unfortunately, every Milwaukee County budget starts with a gap that must be filled in order balance it. The budget gap arises every year because of something we call the structural deficit, where expenditures grow faster than revenues. The annual structural budget gap is about \$12.6 million for 2023. Finding a permanent solution to the structural deficit is a top priority of Milwaukee County officials.

This year's budget was aided by some good fortune in a couple of areas which averted major cuts and allowed for some targeted investments that align with the County's strategic plan. Robust growth in the county's current 0.5% sales tax helped stave off service cuts. \$25 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds filled a gap in mass transit funding for this year, though the County Executive did include reduced service for routes 34, 52, 88, and 92.

One major capital project included in this year's Recommended Budget is a \$62.9 million allocation of general obligation bonds to fund a new Forensic Science Center, which would house the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's office, the county's Office of Emergency Management, and the Wisconsin Department of Justice Milwaukee Crime Lab. The project also recently received \$20 million from the State of Wisconsin and about \$20 million from the county's ARPA funds. Construction is scheduled to begin in fall 2023.

The Parks Department was the beneficiary of a \$1.5 million increase over last year in the Recommended Budget. This includes a net of 17 new positions, primarily focused on park maintenance. Five outdoor pools are budgeted to be open for 2023. Golf, boat slip rental, and facility rental fees are proposed to increase.

While major service cuts have been avoided for another year, without a sustainable, long-term solution to its growing structural deficit Milwaukee County will have no local dollars for services such as parks, transit, or many of the human services residents rely on. Milwaukee County continues to work alongside the Move Forward MKE coalition to pursue a 1 percent local option sales tax, to be paired with property tax relief. The 1 percent sales tax is the county's best option to ensure the future of these services.

Milwaukee County Budget Adoption



Supervisor Staskunas speaking on the board floor during deliberations on the 2023 Milwaukee County Budget.

Energy Assistance Available for Qualifying Milwaukee County Residents

If you are looking for help on your energy bill this winter, Milwaukee County may have you covered. The Energy Assistance Program provides qualified Milwaukee County residents with a one-time, annual payment toward heating and electric bills. The funding pays a portion of energy costs determined by household size, income, and energy costs. The benefit is usually paid directly to the energy supplier.

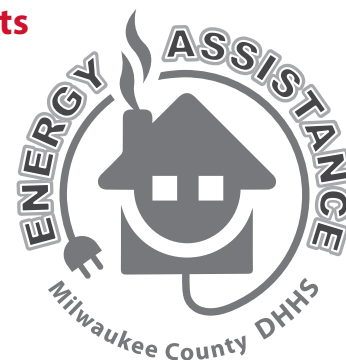
If you have a utility bill and are within Milwaukee County's income guidelines, you probably qualify. Schedule an appointment by calling **(414) 270-4-MKE** or **2-1-1**. Once you successfully complete the application with an energy specialist your benefit will go directly to your utility account.

- If you have completed an application interview and need to return verification documents to expedite your Energy Assistance application: Send documents to milwaukee.energy@umos.org if you had an interview with UMOs. Send documents to eadocuments@communityadvocates.net if you had an interview with Community Advocates.

- Please be sure to black out your social security number, date of birth, bank account numbers or EIN prior to submitting the documents.

- If you are seeking the status of your application, you will receive a benefit status letter in the mail within 7-14 business days after your verification documents have been received. If it has been more than 14 business days, please call **(414) 270-4653**.

- If you have a complaint regarding your experience with the Energy Assistance Program, please call **(414) 289-6656** or email EnergyAssistance@MilwaukeeCountywi.gov and a representative will follow up with you within 48 hours. If you completed your application online and have questions call **(800) 506-5596** for assistance.



Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Working Through Increased Homicides, Drug Overdoses

The Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office (MCMEO) is responsible for providing accurate, timely, comprehensive, and compassionate death investigations for reportable deaths in Milwaukee County. The office investigated 9,589 deaths in 2021 and conducts forensic autopsies for coroners across southeast Wisconsin.

Increasing homicide and drug overdose deaths in Milwaukee County are making the work of the MCMEO more challenging than ever. After seeing 1,450 homicides in 2021 the office has handled 1,101 homicides as of October of 2022. The MCMEO handled 644 drug overdoses in 2021 and has seen approximately 518 as of October 2022. These high levels of preventable deaths put a strain on our Medical Examiner staff.

Eighty percent of confirmed drug deaths in Milwaukee County in 2022 (as of October) involved either fentanyl alone or in combination with other substances.

To bolster its work around drug overdose deaths, the MCMEO has worked to secure grant funding from numerous sources. It received a Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) grant in 2021 to fund one laboratory technician position. It also received a 2022 COSSAP grant in collaboration with the City of Milwaukee Health Department to acquire new instruments and fund a forensic chemist position.

Construction on a new Forensic Science Center located at the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center campus is planned to begin in fall 2023, with the facility opening in spring 2025. It will house the MCMEO along with the county's Office of Emergency Management and the state's Department of Justice Milwaukee Crime Lab.

Hybrid Meetings Continue



Supervisor Staskunas participating in a virtual meeting of the Audit Committee, of which he is Vice Chair.

Amid Summer Travel Surge, MKE Launches Expedited Security Screening Lanes

Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport (MKE) launched its expedited security screening lanes on August 9, 2022. MKE is the first airport in Wisconsin to contract with CLEAR for these services and the 45th across the U.S. The launch is expected to create 34 jobs and generate more than \$2.6 million in local economic activity.



"Our partnership with CLEAR will elevate the customer experience for Milwaukee travelers while showcasing the innovation we continue to cultivate at the airport," said Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport Director Brian Dranzik. "We're confident passengers will love the new technology and take advantage of the opportunity to travel faster through the airport."

Members use CLEAR's network of dedicated lanes to verify their identity with their eyes or fingers, replacing the need to take out their wallet and driver's license. After verification, a CLEAR Ambassador escorts members through the dedicated lane and directly to TSA physical security, reducing the amount of time spent waiting in line at the security checkpoint.

"We are so excited for the opportunity to provide Milwaukee passengers with a more seamless, predictable travel experience," said CLEAR CEO Caryn Seidman-Becker. "MKE has been a wonderful partner, and we're excited to expand into our 45th airport and create more than 30 local jobs."

"Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport is a point of pride for Milwaukee County," said Milwaukee County Supervisor Anthony Staskunas. "Our award-winning airport continually improves upon itself. The partnership with CLEAR is another example of Director Dranzik making MKE the premier choice when traveling to and from Wisconsin."

CLEAR Plus is an opt-in membership that provides access to CLEAR's expedited security lanes for roughly \$16 a month.



A kiosk for enrollment in CLEAR, MKE's expedited security screening.



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Milwaukee County Zoo Welcomes New Baby Giraffe

The Milwaukee County Zoo has welcomed its newest baby animal – a female reticulated giraffe born on May 27 to mom, Marlee, and dad, Bahatika.

Get up-to-date information on **FREE**
Milwaukee County Attractions at:



county.milwaukee.gov/freedays

Service Guide for 16th District Milwaukee County Residents

16th District Milwaukee County Supervisor

Tony Staskunas (414) 278-4247

Aging and Disability Resource Center (414) 289-6874

Airports

Mitchell International Airport (414) 747-5300

Timmerman Airport (414) 461-3222

Child Support Enforcement (414) 615-2593

Clerk of Circuit Court (414) 278-5362

County Clerk (414) 278-4067

County Executive (414) 278-4211

County Treasurer (414) 278-4033

Courts

Civil Division (small & large claims) (414) 278-5362

Criminal Division (414) 278-4538

Children's Court (414) 257-7700

Dept. of Health and Human Services (414) 289-6897

District Attorney's Office (414) 278-4646

Election Commission (414) 278-4060

Emergency/Public Safety

Sheriff (non-emergency) (414) 278-4788

TDD Emergency (414) 278-5252

Burn Center Hotline (24 hours) (414) 272-2876

Emergency Management (24 hours) (414) 257-4709

Suicide Prevention/Intervention

Mental Health Crisis (414) 257-7222

Fraud Hotline (414) 93-FRAUD

House of Correction (414) 427-4700

Jury Services

General Information (414) 278-4469

Reserve Juror Message (414) 985-6000

Marcus Performing Arts Center (414) 273-7121

Marriage Licenses/Passports/Fishing Lic. (414) 278-4067

Medical Examiner (414) 223-1200

Milwaukee Art Museum (414) 224-3200

Milwaukee County Historical Society (414) 273-8288

Milwaukee County Parks

Boerner Botanical Gardens (414) 525-5600

General Information (414) 257-7275

Parks Hotline (414) 257-5100

Golf Office (414) 257-8024

District 16 Parks

Cannon (414) 476-4510

Greenfield (414) 327-8906

Honey Creek Parkway (414) 257-7275

LaFollette (414) 327-8906

McCarty (414) 672-5052

Rainbow (414) 327-8906

Root River Parkway (414) 425-7303

Milwaukee County Zoo (414) 771-3040

Milwaukee County Sports Complex (414) 281-2694

Milwaukee Public Museum (414) 278-2702

Municipalities

Milwaukee (414) 286-CITY (2489)

West Allis (414) 302-8200

Office of Persons with Disabilities (414) 278-3932

Register in Probate (414) 278-4444

Register of Deeds (414) 278-4021

Rent Assistance (414) 278-4902

Transit System

Bus Routes/Schedules/Fares (414) 344-6711

Customer Comments (414) 937-3218

Transit Plus (414) 343-1700

UW-Extension (414) 256-4600

Veterans Services (414) 266-1234

Victim/Witness Service (414) 278-4667